

Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor



Beverley K. Swaim-Staley, Acting Secretary
Neil J. Pedersen, Administrator

June 11, 2009

Mr. Joe Adkins
Deputy Director for Planning
City of Frederick
140 West Patrick Street
Frederick MD 21701

Dear Mr. Adkins:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide further comments on the Crum Farm and Thatcher property annexations to the City of Frederick. As requested, this letter elaborates further on our forwarded comments from April 30, 2009 that were subsequently included in the City of Frederick Planning Commission staff report.

The State Highway Administration (SHA) includes a grade-separated interchange and park and ride lot at the intersection of Biggs Ford Road and US 15 as a part of the I-270/US 15 Multi-Modal Study. The current design would only support the existing low-density land use and control of access along US 15 between Monocacy Boulevard and Sundays Lane. The SHA has determined that a new design will be needed to accommodate the proposed developments on the Crum and Thatcher properties. Without the interchange, the SHA has concerns over the ability of the existing road network to handle the projected traffic. As a result, SHA strongly recommends that the cost of planning, design, and construction of the interchange and park and ride lot be included in the requirements for annexation to the City of Frederick.

The SHA would also request that the right-of-way for the future widening of the US 15 mainline be dedicated as shown in the I-270/US 15 Multi-Modal Study Alternatives Analysis and Environmental Assessment dated May 2009.

The SHA welcomes the opportunity to work with the developers, the City of Frederick and other agencies in developing a corridor plan to enhance the Catoctin Mountain National Scenic Byway and Civil War Heritage Area. Where possible, the SHA would like to see service roads connect through neighboring developments as opposed to paralleling US 15, in order to reduce adverse effects to the viewshed, and provide greater local connectivity. Specifically, Sundays Lane is anticipated to be closed at US 15 once the interchange at Biggs Ford Road is complete. A service road will need to be constructed providing access to properties between Sunday's Lane and Biggs Ford Road.

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Thank you again for allowing the SHA to provide additional comments on the Crum Farm and Thatcher Property Annexations. If we may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Eric Beckett at 410-545-5666, toll-free 888-204-4828 or via email at ebeckett@sha.state.md.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Slater', written over a horizontal line.

Gregory I. Slater, Director
Office of Planning and
Preliminary Engineering

cc: Mr. Eric Beckett, Assistant Regional Planner, Regional and Intermodal Planning
Division, SHA